

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing the image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data, which has been output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit for inputting voice and
outputting voice data representing voice;

10 a voice recording controller for recording voice
data, which has been output from said voice input unit,
on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit for generating
character data representing voice represented by voice
15 data output from said voice input unit; and

a character recording controller for recording character data, which has been generated by said character data generating unit, on the recording medium.

2. The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice
20 input unit inputs voice during the sensing of the image
of a subject by the image sensing device, and said
camera further comprises:

a first control unit for controlling the image recording controller, the voice recording controller and the character recording controller in such a manner that at least two of the image data, voice data and character data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other.

3. The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first reading unit for reading image data and character data that has been recorded on the recording medium;

5 a first combining unit for combining the characters, which are represented by the character data, with an image displayed by the image data that has been read by said first reading unit; and

a first display unit for displaying the image with
10 which the characters have been combined by said first combining unit.

4. The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit for determining whether the digital still camera has a voice output unit when
15 playback is performed;

a second control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit to the effect that the camera has a voice output unit, for outputting voice, which is represented by the voice data, from said
20 voice output unit and halting display of characters represented by the character data; and

a third control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit to the effect that the camera does not have a voice output unit, for controlling a
25 display unit so as to display the characters represented by the character data.

5. The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second reading unit for reading character data

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that has been recorded on the recording medium;

a second display unit for displaying characters represented by character data that has been read by said second reading unit; and

5 an erasure control unit responsive to an erase
command for erasing voice data, which corresponds to
characters being displayed on said second display unit,
from the recording medium.

6. The camera according to claim 1, wherein said image
10 recording controller records image data, which has been
output by said image sensing device, in response to
input of predetermined voice to said voice input unit.

7. The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second combining unit for combining characters,
15 which are represented by character data that has been
generated by said character data generating unit, with
an image output from said image sensing device; and

a fourth control unit for controlling said image recording controller and said character recording controller in such a manner that image data representing an image with which characters have been combined by said second combining unit will be recorded on the recording medium.

8. The camera according to claim 7, further comprising:

25 a third reading unit for reading image data, which
represents an image with which characters have been
combined, from the recording medium; and

a second display unit for displaying an image

represented by image data that has been read by said third reading unit.

9. A method of controlling operation of a digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing the image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data, which has been output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:
- 10 inputting voice and obtaining voice data representing voice;
- recording the obtained voice data on the recording medium;
- generating character data representing voice
- 15 represented by the obtained voice data; and
- recording the generated character data on the recording medium.

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